



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2004

FOR INFORMATION CALL

Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Decries Continued Job Loss in California, Dismal Economic Conditions Across the Country

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) today noted with dismay the news that in January more than 1 million Californians were out of work, and he called on the Bush Administration to do more to improve economic conditions nationwide.

“The Bush Administration’s so-called ‘jobless recovery’ is meaningless to millions of unemployed people in this country, more than a million of them in our state,” Lantos said. “Meanwhile, proposed new tax cuts for the least needy among us would saddle our children and grandchildren with the burden of a burgeoning national debt. In all my experience as an economist and as a member of Congress, I have never witnessed such utter disregard for this country’s fiscal reality.”

The Department of Labor announced today that 1,077,214 Californians were without jobs in January, up from 793,953 unemployed in January 2001. In late February, the Los Angeles Times reported that California’s recovery from the 2001 recession “is still sluggish, with the state lagging behind the nation on a variety of fronts,” including higher unemployment.

Noting that Treasury Secretary John Snow said recently that the economy’s failure to create new jobs was ‘a mystery,’ Lantos said, “What’s truly mystifying is how the Administration and the Republican Congressional leadership can continue to turn their backs as jobs in this country are shipped overseas, and special deals are cut for the large corporations responsible for outsourcing these jobs. We have to change the course of economic policy in this country by putting socially responsible leadership in charge.”

###